

HOMEWORK ZONE

SAT/ACT TIPS

FOR STUDENTS

Get the facts on taking the test

Go to the Guidance Office and find out:

- When and where the test is given.
- How much it costs. Ask about financial aid.
- Deadlines for applications.

Know how the test is set up

Learning the format of the test beforehand saves time and will help you do better.

- The SAT is three hours and 45–minutes long. It has 3 sections, math, critical reading, and writing.
- The ACT is three hours long. It has four sections: English, math, reading, and science reasoning.
- Each section is timed, and has a certain number of questions.

Know the directions before taking the test

The directions on the SAT and ACT are always the same. Don't waste test time reading directions on test day. Read them ahead of time so you know what to do. Use all the time for working on the test.

Know the question types

The same types of questions are used on all tests, with a set number of each question type.

Reading comprehension is a major part of both tests. Read and practice reading comprehension all year.

Practice

Practice builds familiarity and confidence.

- Read the directions.
- Look at the different types of questions. Understand how to do each type. Ask other students or look in SAT guidebooks for explanations of the types of questions and how to answer them.
- First practice untimed. Then practice timed.
- Ask someone to give you a practice test and time your test-taking.

Pre-test bright ideas

- Get to the test center on time.
- Bring your admission ticket and photo ID.
- Bring a watch and calculator.
- Practice ahead of time. Then don't talk about it the day of the test.

For the most up-to-date information on the SAT, see www.collegeboard.com; for the ACT www.actstudent.org